

The permanent pilots contribute 7 per cent of their earnings to a retirement fund which, on retirement, gives them an annuity of \$40 per annum for each year of service with a maximum of \$1,600. In case of the pilot's death, either during service or after retirement, half of the amount of his annuity is payable to his widow for life.

Commander Edwards thought that the amount of work done by the pilots should be measured by the reputation of Halifax as, for a time at least, the greatest convoy port in the world.

Section 8

WOMEN SERVING WITH THE ROYAL NAVAL FORCES

The Interdepartmental Committee on Veterans Affairs examined a memorandum dated November 24, 1945, from the Deputy Minister of National Defence to the Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs wherein it was stated that the United Kingdom Women's Services are not for all purposes a part of the forces of His Majesty and that members thereof who were domiciled in Canada before enlistment and who are now so domiciled may not be entitled to the benefits of The War Service Grants Act. The Deputy Minister of National Defence suggested that consideration be given to an appropriate remedy on behalf of these women.

The Interdepartmental Committee was advised that members of the Women's Services of the British Army and Air Force (A.T.S. and W.A.A.F.) are regarded as actual members of the forces for all purposes, but members of the W.R.N.S. are not so regarded.

The Interdepartmental Committee was supplied with the following extract from "Statutory Rules and Orders 1944" (U.K.): "Statutory Rules and Orders 1944 No. 99 Navy and Marines, Pay, Pensions, etc.:—

'Woman member of the naval forces' means a woman who is:

- (a) a medical or dental practitioner employed with the Medical Branch or Dental Branch of the Royal Navy with naval status for general service;
- (b) enrolled in Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service or the reserve thereof;
- (c) enrolled in the Women's Royal Naval Service;
- (d) a member of a Voluntary Aid Detachment enrolled for employment under the Admiralty."

Admiralty Fleet Orders 2870 and 2874 dated May 31, 1945, provide that war gratuity at a lesser rate than that for men has been approved by His Majesty's Government for W.R.N.S. officers and ratings.

Under date of December 19, 1945, the Department of Justice gave to the Department of Veterans Affairs an opinion to the effect that women who served in the W.R.N.S. were not members of the armed forces of the Crown, and it would follow therefore that these women are not entitled to any gratuity under Section 17 of The War Service Grants Act.

It is apparent therefore that these women received pension and certain other benefits from the British Government on a basis similar to that enjoyed by the A.T.S.'s and W.A.A.F.'s but unlike the latter are not eligible for any benefits under Canadian veteran legislation.